

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraphs in the specification with the corresponding paragraphs below.

[0006] In accordance with the present invention, there is provided an apparatus for providing a textile material with a stonewashed effect. The apparatus includes a plurality of artificial abrasive stones attached to the inside surface of a chamber or wash drum. The artificial abrasive stones are fabricated from a material comprising carbon, silicon, clay, resin and a foaming agent. The chamber has an inside surface with holes therethrough for receiving a connector device attached to the artificial abrasive stone. The connector is adapted to be releasable from the inner surface hole of the chamber, thereby allowing the apparatus user to easily and conveniently replace the artificial abrasive stones as needed.

[0009] In a further embodiment of the present invention, the artificial abrasive stone is made from materials comprising carbon, silicon, clay, resin and foaming agents. The abrasive stones can be formed having a constant size and shape, and, thus, can work with many types of textile materials, such as pure cotton. The artificial abrasive stones are durable and can be used in a significantly more washes than pumice stone.

[0017] The artificial abrasive stones are preferably fabricated from a composition comprising carbon, silicon, clay, resin and foaming agents. In a preferred embodiment, a quantity of carbon and silicon powder is mixed with a clay, resin and a foaming agent. The mixed materials are then placed into a mold having the desired size and shape, and the mixture is heat cured in the range of 200°C to about 1300°C for a set period of time. During the curing process, the foaming agent acts to provide the carbon and silicon stone with porosity, which results in the outer surface 18 being abrasive.

[0018] Fabricating the abrasive stones from carbon and silicon provides stones that are durable and long lasting. Pumice stones are limited to one to two washings; however, artificial stones added freely to the chamber 20 can last up to 10 times. Additionally, the artificial abrasive stones attached to the inner surface 26 of the chamber 20, and fabricated from the material comprising carbon, silicon, clay, and resin can last up to 500 washes. Additionally, the cured stone can be safely used with washing chemicals, such as dyes, fabric softeners, and detergents.